

**Illinois Early Learning Council
Executive Committee Meeting
February 1st, 2016, 1pm to 4pm**

Chicago: ISBE Video-conference Room (100 W. Randolph St., 14th Floor)

Springfield: ISBE Video-conference Room (100 N. 1st St.)

Call: 1-888-494-4032 Access code: 6113045703

Minutes

Chicago: Karen Berman, Jeanna Capito, Gaylord Gieseke, Phyllis Glink, Dan Harris, Reyna Hernandez, Andrea Palmer, Sylvia Puente, Beth Purvis, Diana Rauner, Elliott Regenstein, Sara Slaughter, Teri Talan, Cynthia Tate, Kelley Washington, Maria Whelan

Springfield: Barb Payne and Cindy Zumwalt

Phone: George Davis and Teresa Kelly

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

II. Remembering Vanessa Rich

Committee members took a few moments to remember and recognize the contributions that Vanessa Rich made in the field of Early Childhood on the national and state level. Vanessa Rich will truly be missed.

III. Discussion of Children and Youth Cabinet

Due to the where the Children and Youth Cabinet was in its planning at the time, Co-chair Purvis asked Secretary Dimas of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and IDHS Division Director of Family and Community Services, Diane Grigsby-Jackson, to talk about some work happening at IDHS. Director Grigsby-Jackson began with sharing that her division has been working on creating partnerships and integrating with other agencies. They have been thinking about how to align link and align their resources with other agencies and asked committee members that as they think about how to engage with the Family and Community Services division to think not just about childcare but how everything fits together to serve the family.

Secretary Dimas then went on to share that IDHS is currently facing challenges with the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) authorization. Illinois is serving more higher-income families than most states and IDHS is under scrutiny every month to make sure that they aren't paying people who aren't eligible. IDHS is also trying to receive waivers for some of the CCDBG's mandates. Executive Committee members expressed their enthusiasm with working more with DHS and sharing data with them.

IV. CCDBG State Plan Review and Approval

The Executive Committee, with the permission of the full ELC council, was guided in a review of the CCDBG state plan by Barb Payne. Payne explained that in developing the draft plan, members of the PICC taskforce compared the new plan with the previous plan and updated the draft according to what was recommended. She then went through parts of the plan that had been changed and Executive Committee members were allowed to ask clarifying questions and make any final suggestions to the plan.

V. ELC Committee Structure

Consultant Elizabeth Cole continued the conversation about creating a sustainable structure for the ELC Committee. Recommendations included having the P-20 council and the ELC be the primary advisory for Children's Cabinet; having one co-chair each from the public and private sectors; including someone on the council and committee from Chicago Public Schools; and also possibly including philanthropy and parent seats.

A motion was made by Committee member Maria Whelan that ELC Exec accept the concept of structure. This was second by Maria Whelan who also added that the committee started moving into culture and progress. All were in favor.

VI. Agency Updates

Kelley Washington, executive director of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development shared that the Race to the Top grant ends at the end of the calendar year.

VII. Committee Updates

Reyna Hernandez offered having a webinar on the Early Childhood Block Grant if anyone was interested.

Other committee updates can be found in the meeting materials.

VIII. Adjourn